

coupled to a signal combination device (353) for generating the ratio signal (Sr) from the first (S1) and the second auxiliary signal (S2).

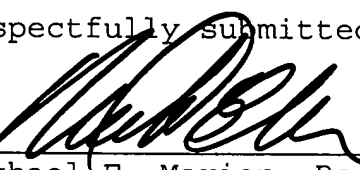
4. Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the second detector (26) comprises a plurality of detection elements (26a, 26b, 26c, 26d).

REMARKS

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment to the claims was made solely to avoid filing the claims in the multiple dependant form so as to avoid the additional filing fee.

The claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and applicants respectfully reserve all rights they may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicants furthermore reserves their right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

3. Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the unit (35) for generating a ratio signal (Sr) comprises a sample and hold unit (351) for sampling the second detection signal (Sd2) and generating a first auxiliary signal (S1), the sample and hold unit (351) being coupled to a sample signal generator (312) which generates a sample signal at a moment that a portion of the record carrier is to be erased, the unit (35) further comprising a peak detector (352) for generating a second auxiliary signal (S2), the peak detector (352) and the sample and hold unit (351) being coupled to a signal combination device (353) for generating the ratio signal (Sr) from the first (S1) and the second auxiliary signal (S2).

4. Apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the second detector (26) comprises a plurality of detection elements (26a, 26b, 26c, 26d).